(b) whether this obligation is applicable to the foreign banks also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India on priority sector lending programme, the domestic commercial banks are required to lend 18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure to agriculture sector. As per provisional figures, as on 29.02.2008, during the year 2007-08, the public sector banks have disbursed Rs. 1,01,889.32 crore to agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The foreign banks, operating in India, are required to lend 32% of their ANBC or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, to priority sector. However, there is no target stipulated for agriculture sector, keeping in view the fact that the foreign banks have no rural branch network.

Sixth Pay Commission

3769. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the report and recommendations from the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the salient anomalies detected, if any, in its recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that chiefs of three wings of Indian Armed Forces called on Government and personally registered their disappointment against the recommendations made by the Commission pertaining to members of Defence Services;

(d) if so, brief details of the points of their resentment;

(e) whether the same are being addressed to by Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are under examination of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Chiefs of the Staff Committee comprising three Service Chiefs submitted a Joint Services Memorandum on recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission which contains 14 issues pertaining to pay scales, Military Service Pay, pension, gratuity, etc.

(e) to (g) The same are under examination of the Government.

Honours for highest income-tax payers

3770. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the highest income tax payers in the country are honoured or given any awards;